The Bible & Daily Living

Church conflict can motivate members

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
CONFLICT IN THE CHURCH
Lesson for May 8, 1983
Bible Study Passage: Acts 18:1, 4-17
INTRODUCTION

An aspirin will most often relieve a "splitting headache," but it takes a great deal more to heal a splitting church. Most of us have probably been involved in a church fight in which the congregation was divided over some issue. The experience probably left a "bad taste in your mouth."

The pain caused by division among church members and pastoral leadership can be severe and of long duration. Some churches never seem to mend after a division and others seem to carry a reputation that haunts them through the years.

There are two sides to every coin. The irony of church conflict is that it may become a positive force. Nothing stirs up a napping dog like a hornet! Conflict can be a source of motivation to get people involved. I would rather be a part of a fighting church than a church drowning in its own apathy.

Fighting can be a stimulating tonic in a marriage and a church. There is something to be said for those who care enough to fight. Maybe the term fight sounds too severe or threatening. Label it waht you will, conflict can be disruptive and it can be a stimulation for much needed growth. This week's lesson looks at a conflict Paul encountered in the Corinthian church.

From Athens To Cornith [Acts 18:4-11]

Paul was a cultured and learned scholar. He frequently hobnobbed with the academic elite and was able to debate the skeptic. When Paul left Athens he journeyed from a city known for its culture and learning to Corinth, a city known for its vice. Here Paul would be challenged to confront a city of sin with the Gospel of grace.

The congregation at Corinth was noticeably different from other established congregations Paul was used to. The Corinthian church was made up of converts from the poor and less privileged segment of society.

Paul managed to make his way to the Jewish synagogue to proclaim Christ there. Needless to say, Paul met with opposition to his proclamations. But a chief ruler of the synagogue, named Crispus, opened his home to Paul and became a believer.

Paul became depressed over the hostile reception he encountered in the synagogue. But during the night he received a vision of encouragement that the Lord would be with him through the "thick and the thin." It is just like Jesus to promise that he will be with us through the storms. He does not promise to take away the storms. Because of the encouragement Paul labored in Corinth for eighteen months. By the time he left he and his co-workers would leave a sizeable congregation, strengthened by Paul's strong influence.

Organized Opposition [Acts 18:12-17]

The Jews at Corinth presented an organized front to oppose Paul's preaching. They believed that Paul was telling people to worship God in ways contrary to the long-standing Jewish law and customs. The Jews saw Christianity as an intruder form of religion. They could not make the connections between Judaism and Christianity. The Jews sought to strengthen their support by appealing to the Roman government to intervene and not grant Christianity the freedom to exist.

A proconsul by the name of Gallio ignored the Jewish accusations and refused to hear the case. This was a good news break for Christianity and Paul.

The church has often been a heated battleground for divisive issues. The battles still rage between errancy-inerrancy, orthodox-unorthodox, liturgical-non-liturgical, as well as a host of other concerns.

The church will never be without conflict and controversy. But let's at least work to channel our energies towards resolution, not forsaking the human need at the doorstep of churches, parishes, and synagogues.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois. (WLYP)

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DR. DANIEL SCOTT, new pastor at Liberty Baptist Church, is shown with his wife, Ellen, son Ric, 12 and daughter Beth, 10. Dr. Scott began his duties as pastor of the church in April. A native of Bedford, Scott comes to Appomattox from Stuart Baptist Church, Stuart, Va. His wife, Ellen, a native of Roanoke, is a former nursery school teacher; she enjoys needlework and working with flowers. Dr. Scott's hobbies are gardening and painting. "Liberty is a much larger church than the one we left," said Scott, "but it is a challenge that I am looking forward to meeting."

Biblical production set

The Theater of the Universe, a living Bible production which ran for a year in New York City will be coming to the Appomattox Seventh Day Adventist Church Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 6, 7, and 8 at 7:00 p.m. The production is directed by Pastor John D. Aitken, New York City evangelist and stars on its multi-media 30-foot screen Lucifer, son of the Morning, at war with Michael, son of God. Titles for each evening's productions are:

Friday, May 6 - A Planet Taken Hostage.

Saturday, May 7 - The Planet Ransomed.

Sunday, May 8 - Lucifer Defeated.

Special feature of each evening are a sing-a-long with Judi which will begin promptly at 7, and a story time by the international author and story teller, Dorothy Aitken. The story is a continuing feature entitled, "Rajah, Boy Of Tibet".

At halftime Pastor John will delight you by playing his swiss Bells, and Pastor John and Johnny will present the Marionettes in Bible Costumes.

Friday evening everyone who comes will receive a book, "The Boxer Pup" and there will be a drawing for a door prize.

Bring the whole family, especially the kids, and sit back and enjoy a unique, informative, and entertaining evening. Admission is free. This is the easiest way to understand great Bible truths. Don't miss a single presentation!

Vaught to resign

The Rev. James R. Vaught, pastor of Red Oak Baptist Church in Oakville, has announced his resignation effective June 6 to accept the position as Chaplain of the Mary Washington Hospital in Fredericksburg, Virginia July 1.

Mary Washington Hospital is a 340 bed medical surgical hospital and he will serve as the first chaplain of the hospital.

Service set at Mt. Airy

The Rev. Donald Hamlett and one of the Hat Creek Choirs from Brookneal will conduct Mother's Day services at Mt. Airy Baptist Church May 8. This will be sponsored by the Senior Choir.

On the third Sunday, May 15 at 3 p.m., the Trying Gospel Tears of Amherst will be in concert at Mt. Airy. The program will be sponsored by the Young Adult Choir.

The Diamond Hill Men's Chorus of Lynchburg will be in concert Sunday, May 22. This will benefit the Organ Fund.

The third outreach service will be held on Sunday, May 29. Special guests for the day will be the pastor, choir and congregation from New Lebanon Calvary Baptist Church of Baltimore, Md. Lunch will be served.

Let us remember the sick and shut-in, and may all mothers have a happy Mother's Day.

Service moved

Due to renovation activities at Canaan Baptist Church, the workshop service will be held at Jordan Baptist Church May 8 at 11:30 a.m.

The Rev. C.L. Elliott, pastor, will be in charge of the service, and the Senior Choir will render music. Please come out and worship with us.

Bake sale scheduled

The Ladies of Early's Chapel Church are sponsoring a bake sale on May 7 at the Village Market in Concord, beginning at 9 a.m.

Home made rolls, loaf bread, cakes, pies, candy and cookies will be available.

"We invite you to come on by and buy your Mother's Day goodies," said a spokesman for the group.

Revival set at Evergreen

Revival services will be held at the Evergreen Baptist Church, the Rev. Edmond M. Terry, pastor, on May 12, 13 and 14 with services beginning each evening at 7:30. The Rev. Jesse Buell, full time evangelist, will be the guest speaker.

On Sunday, May 15, Homecoming and Dedication Service will begin at 10:30 a.m. with Sunday School at 9:45.

Following lunch on the grounds, a program of music will be presented in the afternoon.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

Deaths

Norris Hutchison Beale

Norris Hutchison Beale, 69, of Route 2, Forest, died at 8:45 p.m. Tuesday, April 26, 1983 at Virginia Baptist Hospital. He was the husband of Mildred Daniel Beale.

Born in Appomattox County, he was a son of the late M.H. Beale and Ella Pankey Beale. He was retired from the maintenance department at Eagle Eyrie Baptist Assembly and was a member of Old Forest Road Baptist Church.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, Raymond L. Beale of Roanoke; a daughter, Lois B. Williams of Appomattox; two brothers, Clayton Beale and Wesley Beale, both of Pamplin; four sisters, Cora Callahan of Union, N.J., Mazie Robertson and Ruth Tomlinson, both of Lynchburg, and Kathleen Katorsky of Concord, and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday at Old Forest Road Baptist Church by the Rev. Arthur B. Ballard. Burial was in Virginia Memorial Park.

Whitten Park Avenue Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Nannie Coles

Mrs. Nannie Coles, Route 2, Concord, departed this life Friday, April 29, in the Lynchburg Nursing Home.

Born in Campbell County, she was a daughter of the late William and Fletcher Hood. She was married to the late Charlie Coles.

She is survived by a foster son, James Wilson, Baltimore, Md.; a foster daughter, Mrs. Frances Kinton, Nashville, Tenn.; an uncle, George Hood, Lynchburg; a sister-in-law, Mrs. Estelle Hood, Lynchburg; a devoted friend, Paige Townes, Lynchburg, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held today at 4 p.m. in the chapel of the Carl B. Hutcherson Funeral Home, with the Rev. T.A. Sandifer officiating. Interment was in Archer Creek Cemetery.

Ethel Dillon Crance

Ethel Dillon Crance, 79, of Route 5, Lynchburg, died Monday, May 2, 1983, in Camelot Hall Nursing Home after a long illness. She was the wife of the late Merrell A. Crance.

Born in Talcott, W.Va., she was the daughter of the late Daniel Robert Dillon and Lula Dennis Dillon. She was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Concord.

She is survived by five sons, Merrell A. Crance, Jr. of Frederick, Md., James Daniel (J.D.) Crance, Calvin L. Crance and Gerald F. Crance, all of Lynchburg, and Frederick V. Crance, Concord; two daughters, Lula C. (Ann) Hale and Sandra C. Hensley, both of Lynchburg; 17 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at 1 p.m. Wednesday in Whitten Park Avenue Chapel by the Revs. Frank W. Casper and Hugh Bumgarner. Interment was in Fort Hill Memorial Park.

Whitten Park Avenue Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

James D. Guill

James D. (Jimmy) Guill, 68, of Route 4, Appomattox, died at 7:30 a.m. May 3, 1983 in Lynchburg General Hospital. He was the husband of Mrs. Maxine Martin Guill.

Born in Appomattox County April 10, 1915, he was a son of the late Joel L. Guill and Bertha Carter Guill. He was a member of Memorial United Methodist Church and was a retired service station operator.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a step-daughter, Mrs. Thelma Scott Matthews, Harrisonburg, a step-son, W. C. Story, Jr., Concord, three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren,three sisters, Mrs. Rachel G. Robertson and Mrs. Clara G. Mitchell, both of Appomattox, Mrs. Hester G. Witt, of Lynchburg, two brothers, Julian Guill, Appomattox and Dan Guill of Lynchburg.

Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Thursday, May 5, 1983 from Memorial United Methodist Church by The Rev. P. Edward Leonard. Burial will follow in Liberty Cemetery.

Mary Lula Brown Lerner

Mary Lula Brown Lerner, 79, of 1508 Florida Ave., Lynchburg, died at 4:10 p.m. Sunday, May 1, 1983, at Lynchburg General Hospital. Her husband was the late William H. Lerner.

Born in Appomattox County, she was a daughter of the late William W. Brown and Mittie Cheatham Brown. She was a former employee of Consolidated Textile Co. and a member of Bethesda Presbyterian Church.

She is survived by five sons, William Lerner of Edgewater, Md., James Lerner of Annapolis, Md., Clarence Lerner of Loxahatchee, Fla., Wallace Lerner of Daytona Beach, Fla., and Russell Lerner of Stevensville, Md.; two daughters, Edith Brooks of Concord and Mary Mitchell of Lynchburg; three brothers, David Brown of Newport News, Tom Wrown of Brookneal and Russell Brown of Spout Spring; three sisters, Etta Stanley, Betty Williams and Eleanor Wilkes, all of Lynchburg; 25 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Whitten Park Avenue Chapel by the Rev. James Wood. Burial was in Fort Hill Memorial park.

Whitten Park Avenue Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

Concert set

The Holiness Gospel Singers of Pamplin will be in concert at Springfield Baptist Church on May 8 at 3 p.m.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

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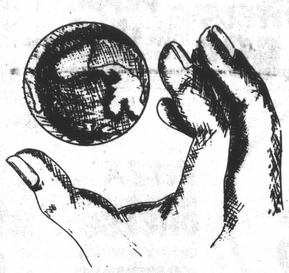
Earth: Theater of the Universe



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Mrs. Julian Charles Gills

Miss Ore is wed to Mr. Phelps

Suzanne Temple Ore was wed to William David Phelps, Jr. on May 7, at 2 o'clock p.m. at Thalia Lynn Baptist Church with Junius E. Foster officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Ore of Virginia Beach, Virginia. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William David Phelps of Virginia Beach, Virginia, and the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Nelson Phelps of Gladstone, Virginia.

The bride was escorted and given away by her father. She wore a formal gown of white satin and re-embroidered lace appliques and seed pearls framing the sweetheart neckline, with a sheer, schiffli-embroidered net yoke rising to a jewel neckline. The Juliet sleeves of satin ended in lace and pearled cuffs. The bell-shaped skirt of satin swept in gathers from the bridal-pointed waist to a full, chapel-length train. Fresh gardenias graced her hair.

Kianne Wood Phelps, of Austin, Texas, sister of the groom, served as maid of honor. She wore a full length gown of lavender organza, long sleeves, high neckline and satin bow at the waist. Her headpiece was made of fresh flowers.

Elizabeth Anne Glass, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, niece of the bride served as flower girl. Her dress was white eyelet lace with high neckline and long sleeves. Fresh miniature flowers adorned her hair.

William David Phelps served as his son's best man.

The usher was Timothy Nichols of Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Mrs. William David Phelps, Jr.

The bride is a graduate of Princess Anne High School and attended Tidewater Community College. She is also a graduate of Tidewater Real Estate School. The bridegroom graduated from Kempsville High School, Tidewater Community College and Old Dominion University with a degree in Electrical Engineering Technology. He is presently employed with Westinghouse in Hunt Valley, Maryland.

Following a reception at the church social hall, the couple left on a wedding trip to the Outer Banks of North Carolina. They will reside in Baltimore, Maryland.

Debra Rowe is honored

Miss Debra Rowe was honored on Monday night with a bridal shower, given by Mrs. Harriet Abbitt and Mrs. Patsy Moore, at the Abbitt home.

The wedding of Miss Rowe and Mr. Walter Nurmi, of Lynchburg will take place on May 21 at Liberty Baptist Church in Appomattox.

Miss Pugh to marry

Mrs. Raymond A. Hatcher, Jr., of Appomattox, announces the engagement of her daughter, Angela Lynn Pugh, to Michael Andrew Shupe, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Shupe of Appomattox.

The wedding will take place on Saturday, May 7, 1983 at 2 o'clock in New Hope Baptist Church in Vera.

Although no invitations will be sent all friends and relatives are invited to attend.

Historical dates set

The Appomattox County Historical Society has set dates for 1983-84 meetings. Please circle your calendar.

June 13 will be a picnic with place to be announced. Search your attics for any documentary historical information, photos or small artifacts you might wish to give to the museum. Bring these with you to the picnic.

Future meetings scheduled are Sept. 12, 1983, Dec. 12, 1983, and April 9, 1984.

Interesting programs are being planned.

Dues for the year are $7.50 for the year, due and payable now to Mrs. Margaret O'Brien, treasurer, Appomattox, Va.

President Cecil Crawley has indicated that response, willingness, and cooperation between members has been most gratifying as she is setting up committees for the year.

Much research has been done and is to be done in the county; to research water powered mills and country stores is Mrs. Minerva Kepler, chairman, Jeter Witt Wooldridge, Gertrude Wooldridge, and Charles Crews.

Other committees will be announced as completed.

Miss McCormick honored

Miss Denise McCormick was honored with a lingerie shower on Sunday, May 1 at her home; hostess for the occasion was Miss Wendy Gagneur.

Among those attending were Mrs. Louise McCormick, mother of the bride-elect; Mrs. Linda Totty, mother of the groom-elect and other friends and relatives.

The marriage of Miss McCormick to Mr. Ralph Christian Totty, Jr. will be an event of May 21 at seven o'clock in the evening at the Appomattox Court House Presbyterian Church.

Although no invitations are being sent, all friends and relatives are invited to attend.

Bride-elect is honored

Miss Debra Rowe, bride-elect, was honored on Saturday, April 30, with a lingerie shower at the home of Mrs. Ben H. Marshall on Lee Grant Avenue. In attendance were Mrs. Cecil Rowe, mother of the bride-elect, members of the wedding party and friends.

Assisting Mrs. Marshall were Mrs. Diane Bradford and Mrs. Frances Hernecall.

The wedding of Miss Rowe to Mr. Walt Nurmi of Lynchburg, will take place on May 21 at Liberty Baptist Church.

Miss Vaden, Dr. Gills wed

The marriage of Miss Margaret Elizabeth Vaden of Richmond, Virginia to Dr. Julian Charles Gills of Richmond took place on Saturday afternoon at four o'clock, April 30, in the Bon Air United Methodist Church.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Manice Bough Vaden and the late Julian Howard Vaden of Petersburg and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Sydnor Gills of Appomattox.

The Reverend Forrest Wagoner of Appomattox officiated at the ceremony.

The bride is a graduate of Petersburg High School, Stuart Circle Hospital School of Nursing and received her B.S. degree in nursing from M.C.V. She is presently Unit Co-ordinator in Oncology at Medical College of Virginia Hospital.

The bridegroom is a graduate of Appomattox High School, Hampden-Sydney College and received his D.D.S. from M.C.V. School of Denistry. He received his degree in Orthodontics from University of Pennsylvania and is now Assistant Clinical Professor of Orthodontics at M.C.V. He also has private practices in Richmond, Mineral, and Appomattox.

Following a European wedding trip, the couple will reside in Richmond.

Denise Conner honored

Miss Cheryl Denise Conner was honored on April 10 with a floating miscellaneous shower at Liberty Chapel Baptist Church.

Hostesses for the event were Mrs. Anne Reynolds, Mrs. Delores Cheatham, Mrs. Doris Martin and Mrs. Debra Washburn.

Those in attendance included Mrs. J.A. Conner, Jr., mother of the bride-elect; Mrs. Lonnie C. Reynolds, Sr., mother of the groom-elect; Mrs. J.A. Conner, Sr., grandmother of the bride-elect; other relatives and friends of the couple.

The wedding of Miss Conner to Michael Raymond Reynolds will be an event of May 14 at 7 p.m. in Liberty Baptist Church.

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